

DDI-2736-74

28 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : Request for Publication of Book Review

1. I request approval to submit to the American Historical Review for publication a review of Maurice van Durme, Les Archives de Simancas et l'Histoire de la Belgique, Vol. IV, part 1, (Brussels: 1973).

2. The AHR asked me to review the book. I have been a reviewer of books on Belgian history for twenty-odd years, and have in the past been identified in the AHR by address rather than institution. I would prefer to keep it that way, despite the more relaxed Agency policy of revealing affiliation.* No classified information is used in this review. The address of the American Historical Association is 400 A Street Southeast, Washington, D.C. The editor of the ARH is R. K. Webb. The due date for this review is 15 September.

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Office of Political Research

Attachment: Book Review

*In view of current DDI policy,
[redacted] will be identified
as CIA, per my discussion with
him 10 Sept.

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To those familiar with the quality of earlier volumes in this series, it will come as no surprise that M. van Durme has produced another meticulous and informative work. This is a collection of document titles from the Simancas archives, relating to the history of the Low Countries, especially Belgium, mostly of the 16th and 17th centuries. The bulk of the material is correspondence between the Spanish royal court and Spanish ambassadors in Rome. Naturally, a good deal of the subject matter involves ecclesiastical appointments, papal diplomacy, and the fortunes of Catholic factions in dozens of European religious conflicts. The documents cited in this collection should be of prime value to historians concerned with ecclesiastical or diplomatic history, or with the affairs of the Spanish Habsburgs or the Popes of the Reformation Era. References to social, economic, and

political matters in the Low Countries are pretty scanty. There is some mention of military recruitment, campaigns in the Netherlands, and payments to Spanish armies in the field. Most document citations carry brief descriptions of the contents; the index is excellent, and the format clear.



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